47. Economic Development.

MR. ERAVI GANGADHARA KARTHA (*Shertallai taluk, Group I*) referred to the importance of the industrial development of a country for the prosperity of its people. Then he spoke about the present economic depression and the consequent hardships suffered by the people. Travancore which was primarily an agricultural country was particularly affected by the fall in the prices of the local products and the great trade depression. All the raw products of the country went to foreign countries and the people were at the mercy of the fluctuations of the foreign market. More than 75 per cent. of the people of the State were engaged in agriculture. But the benefits of the Agricultural Department had not reached the ordinary villager. The ordinary agriculturist had no idea of the modern implements and he was ignorant of the methods of intensive cultivation and manuring. The abnormal importance given to literary education and the attraction for public service kept away the best intellects from agriculture. The peasants should be taught to make better use of the soil resources. There should be a systematic soil survey of the cultivable area. Scientific methods of agriculture should be taught to the peasants. They should be induced to adopt increased use of artificial manure as well as improved seeds. The Government should encourage proper breeding and rearing of livestock, manufacture of milk products and poultry farming. Better attention should be paid to the preservation of pasture lands.

Speaking of the industrial life of the State, the member said that there was very little attempt on the part of the people to convert the raw products of the State into manufactured articles. There was neither the required capital nor the necessary machinery. There was little of organising power and still less of technical skill. One-third of the labour force of the State was idle and what labour was available was unskilled. The defect lay in the existing system of education. There should be more of technical and industrial education.

The member made the following suggestions in this connection :—

1. Free issue of irrigation loans.
2. Establishment of Land Mortgage Banks.
3. Finding of fresh markets for the local products.
4. Appointment of Trade Agents.
5. Establishment of industrial and technical schools.
6. A comprehensive economic survey of the State.
7. Financing and encouraging industrial undertakings for which there was scope in the country.
8. Deputation of talented young men to foreign countries for expert industrial training.
9. Encouragement of such industries as candle making, coir mats industry, manufacture of matches, sugar, glass, paper, etc., and rendering financial help.

10. Encouragement of salt industry.
11. Opening of a State Bank.
12. Introduction of legislation to regulate the numerous *chitties* started in the State, which were speculative in character and tended to increase the indebtedness of the people, without any corresponding benefit to the subscribers.

In summing up, the member said that agriculture should be improved, cultivable areas should be disafforested from the Reserves, landless people should be given small holdings and agricultural loans should be issued liberally. As in Germany, England, America and other advanced countries, Government should take up a bold policy in agriculture and industry. The Co-operative Department of the State was doing some work. But the present one-sided development of credit societies was doing harm to the people, by increasing their borrowing capacity without enhancing their source of income. Consumers' societies,, distributive societies and co-operative stores should be established in larger numbers and they should be encouraged.

In conclusion, the member also referred to the undesirability of creating new appointments, and to the necessity for reducing the salary of the high-paid officers. The member said that the practice of importing men from outside and appointing them as heads of departments in the State was undesirable, especially as there was no paucity of capable men in the country. The European officers who were got down had not the necessary experience to deal with the people or the problems of the country.

DEWAN'S REPLY: There are some useful things which you have said and some things, in my opinion, not very useful. Whatever useful suggestions you have made will be noted and considered.

48. Needs of the Tiruvalla taluk.

MR. JOHN JACOB (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) dwelt upon the following needs of Tiruvalla taluk :—

Raising the English Middle School for girls at Chengannur to the High School standard. The same subject was represented at the previous sessions also. At the 24th session, the Dewan replied that the matter was under consideration. There were 77 girl students studying in the local Boys' High School, of whom 40 students were in the IV Form. Owing to unwillingness to join the Boys' school, 25 girls students from Chengannur were attending the Girls' High Schools at Kottayam and Tiruvalla. More than 20 students had discontinued their studies. At least Form IV should be opened in the Girls' Middle School from the beginning of the next school year.

The works on the approach road to the local Boys' High School, for the benefit of the students coming from Angadical, should be expedited. The additional land required for the extension of the school premises, for the provision of latrines etc., should be acquired.